

The Evening Grosbeak in Central New York in April.—On April 11 a neighbor described to me two birds which she had seen in the fruit trees in her yard so accurately that I had no doubt that she had seen a pair of Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina*). A later search failed to reveal them that day, however, but on the following day I was sent for, and on nearing the place heard their curious notes, and had no difficulty in finding the birds. They were quite tame, and I watched them for a long time. They spent most of the time on the ground or in the lower branches of the trees, and the male in particular seemed very partial to the shriveled and discolored apples that lay on the ground or clung to the branches. Whether he ate the pulp or the seeds I could not tell positively.

In the winter of 1901-02 these birds were quite common here, but I have since had no report of them until the present instance, and I was surprised to see them here this year after the spring had broken and all the early birds were starting their nesting.—LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

The Evening Grosbeak at Beverly, Mass.—In the winter of 1889-1890 there was a great incursion of the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina*) to Massachusetts, a number of specimens being taken at Boxford and Lynn. This was considered the most interesting flight of birds ever recorded in the State. Most of the specimens secured were placed in the Peabody Academy of Science at Salem. I believe the species has not been seen since then until Wednesday, March 23, 1904, when I came upon a flock of five of them. They were in a willow tree along with some Robins and Rusty Grackles. The Robins and Grackles flew when I passed under the tree, but these birds remained, and to my surprise I discovered that they were the Evening Grosbeak. They were much scattered, and I fired at one old male which I secured. They flew perhaps an eighth of a mile before alighting again. I followed and secured two more, a young male and a female. They were all fine birds, in good condition, and their stomachs were well filled with buds and seed. They have been purchased by Mr. John E. Thayer of Lancaster, Mass.; two of them will be placed in the collection of the Boston Society of Natural History and the other retained for his own collection.—C. EMERSON BROWN, *Beverly, Mass.*

Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow in North Dakota—On June 12, 1902, while dragging with a long rope, over low prairie land near a small slough, I flushed a little sparrow from a heavy tangled growth of grass. The spot was marked and upon returning an hour later the bird was again started from the grass nearby. A careful search ended fruitlessly; I then retired a short distance and waited about fifteen minutes. The next time I approached the spot on a run and the bird fluttered from the grass at my very feet, only to drop into the grass a few yards away, as she

had done before. I began searching over every inch of ground and after half an hour's work I found a tiny nest sunken on a level with the ground, which was so well concealed by its small size and the thick clump of grass in which it was located that I could not remove my eyes without again having to search for it. The structure was four inches in depth and well arched over at the top, resembling nothing more than a tiny burrow; so dark was the interior of the nest that the eggs could not be discerned until the surrounding growth had been displaced. This nest was composed of fine grasses, very compactly woven, and the walls were thick and strong. Incubation was far advanced in the five eggs which it contained, the ground color of which was grayish white thickly and uniformly marked with specks of light brown.

I found it no easy matter to obtain the bird, as it never flew for more than a few yards without dropping into the grass, and only took wing when almost trampled upon. At last, however, I secured the bird with a snap shot when it took a longer flight than usual. The bird proved beyond all question to belong to *Ammodramus nelsoni*, and the bird, nest and eggs are now in the collection of Dr. H. B. Bishop. Few sets, if any, of this sparrow have been taken within the limits of the United States, though Arnold and Raine have taken sets in Canada. The set described above was taken near Devils Lake City, N. D.—CHARLES W. BOWNAN, *Devils Lake, N. D.*

Henslow's Sparrow in Chester County, Pa.—On April 25, 1904, I shot a male Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) at Cupola, Chester Co., Pa. There were some six pairs of these sparrows in an overgrown, upland field. They ran under the matted grass like meadow mice and it was almost impossible to flush them, but their weak, two-syllabled notes could be heard on every side. On another visit to the locality, on May 8, only a single bird was seen and on May 22 they seemed to have entirely deserted the spot, as none were to be found.—CHRESWELL J. HUNT, *Philadelphia, Pa.*

Henslow's Sparrow at Bethlehem, Pa.—A Correction.—In view of the recent occurrences of Henslow's Sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, it seems desirable to call attention to an erroneous record furnished to Dr. B. H. Warren and first published in his *Birds of Pennsylvania*. On p. 236 he says: "Nests have been taken in our state by Dr. Detwiller of Bethlehem and Mr. Roddy of Millersville." In my *Birds of Eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey*, after corresponding with both gentlemen, I published more explicit data concerning the dates and localities of these nests.

Subsequently a portion of the late Dr. Detwiller's collection came into possession of the Academy of Natural Sciences, and among other specimens are two birds labeled "*Coturniculus henslowi*, Bethlehem, June,